Coverage of DD/AIR Network

1892. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to cover all the remote areas under KU Band to widen the area of DD and AIR;

(b) if so, the proposed areas that are going to be covered in the country;

(c) the areas, that are going to be covered in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the total digital centres in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati has informed that though the entire country is covered by Doordarshan in satellite mode, through reception by appropriate dish antenna. A number of transmitter projects are presently under implementation in various parts of the country which are expected to increase terrestrial TV/AIR coverage in the next 3 years to 92% and 99.3% of population and 81% and 91.8% of area respectively. To cover the remaining uncovered areas including far-flung areas, the Tenth Plan proposals of Doordarshan include, *inter-alia*, schemes for TV coverage with multi-channel bouquet in free-to-air mode, in Ku-band, through satellite distribution system. The scheme is yet to be approved by the competent authority.

(d) Digitalisation of studio equipment is being taken up in phased manner. In addition, four digital terrestrial transmitters, one each at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai have been set up for experimental service and test transmission is being carried out.

Guidelines for FDI in Non-News Segments

1893. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are finalizing guidelines for FDI in non-news segments;

(b) if so, the details of the guidelines;

(c) by when the guidelines are likely to be implemented;

(d) whether any proposal has been received in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The Ministry has already issued guidlines for foreign investment in Indian entities publishing scientific/technical/speciality magazines/periodicals/journals. The guidelines are given in the Statement. (*See* below).

(d) and (e) No proposal seeking approval for foreign investment in publication of scientific/technical/speciality magazines/periodicals/journals has been reviceived so far.

Guidelines for FDI in publication Sector

Guidelines for

(i) Publication of Indian Editions of Foreign Technical/Scientific/Speciality Magazine/Journals/ Periodicals; and

(ii) Foreign Investment in Indian Entities Publishing Scientific/ Technical/Specially Magazines/Journals/Periodcals

PREAMBLE

The Union Government has decided to allow:

(i) publication of Indian editions of foreign scientific, technical and speciality magazines/periodicals/journals; and

(ii) foreign investment upto 74% in Indian entities publishing scientific/ technical and speciality magazines/periodicals/journals.

1. *Application*

(i) An application shall be made to the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting in the prescribed format to determine the nature of contents of the publication

(ii) Application fee of Rs. 5000/- (Rupees Five thousand only) shall have to be deposited through a Demand Draft in favour of the Pay & Accounts Officer, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, payable at New Delhi.

2. *Processing*

(i) The application shall be processed by the Ministry of I&B, after due inter-Ministerial consultations, to decide whether the proposed publication is covered under the category of scientific, technical or speciality magazine/periodical/journal. Representatives of the concerned Ministries/speicalist bodies and language experts, as found necessary will be associated in this task. In appropriate cases, the Ministry of I&B will issue:

(a) An approval, subject to compliance with the provisions of the Press and Registration of Books Act and Rules made thereunder for publication of the foreign journal; or

(b) A No Objection Certificate (NOC) for foreign investment, a copy of which would be sent to RNI/SIA/RBI and the applicant.

(ii) Determination of category assigned to the publication(s) is liable for review by the Ministry of I&B if the contents of the publication(s) undergo change at a later date.

(iii) (a) In cases where both FDI and FII investment is envisaged, the applicant may approach the FIPB/RBI for clearance after obtaining the No Objection Certificate from the Ministry of I&B.

(b) In cases involiving only portfolio investment, the applicant may approach the Reserve Bank of India, for further clearance, if any, after obtaining the No Objection Certificate from the Ministry of I&B.

(c) The Ministry of I&B will keep the Secretariat for Industrial Assistance and the Reserve Bank of India informed of the FDI projected by the Company and the balance permissible foreign investment on the portfolio investment route, while communicating the No Objection.

3. Title of the Publication

Title verification shall continue to be done by the Press Registrar as per existing procedure.

4. Foreign Investment

(i) Total foreign investment upto 74% may be allowed. Guidelines of the Ministry of Finance on FDI and Portfolio investment would apply subject to the overall ceiling of 74% mentioned above.

(ii) All cases involving Foreign Investment shall be handled by the prescribed agencies, *viz.* FDI on the government approval route through the mechanism of the FIPB and portfolio investment by the RBI.

Pending proposals for AIR/DD centres

1894. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals pending at present for setting up of Radio Stations and Doordarshan Centres in different parts of the country particularly in Himachal Pradesh, location-wise and district-wise; and

(b) the steps taken to expedite the implementation of such projects in the country?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Prasar Bharati formulates plans for expansion of AIR/Doordarshan facilities in the country after taking into account existing coverage and infrastructural facilities at a given place, extent of resultant additional coverage, *inter-se* priorities, availability of financial resources etc. Requests for setting up of new AIR/Doordarshan Stations are received from time to time by Prasar Bharati and these are taken into consideration while formulating Five Year/Annual Plans. Prasar Bharati has informed that it does not maintain any list of pending requests of proposals for setting up of Doordarshan Kendras/AIR Station.

(b) Regular monitoring of all projects in AIR and Doordarshan Network is carried out by Prasar Bharati at various levels and remedial measures, as necessary, are taken for completion of projects as per schedule.